

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-20 DRC-01 RSC-01 /048 W

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O 131400Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7233

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3799

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NO US

SUBJECT: US,NORWEGIAN CONSULATION

REF: STATE 203451

1. I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU WILL TAKE TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO VISIT OSLO. NORWEGIANS WERE VERY PLEASED WITH YOUR DECISION, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT WILL GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO CONVERY THEIR VIEWS TO YOU BEFORE YOU MEET WITH EC REPRESENTATIVES.

2. SINCE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMED, IT IS, OF COURSE, DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE YOU WITH FIRM SCHEDULE AT THIS POINT. BUT UNLESS UNEXPECTED DEADLOCK DEVELOPS AT THIS WEEK-END LABOR PARTY MEETINGS TO CONFIRM CABINET NOMINATIONS, NEW CABINET WILL BE ANNOUNCED SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND TAKE OFFICE AT NOON TUESDAY OCTOBER 16.

3. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KJELD VIBE, WHOM YOU MET IN WASHINGTON, HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH LABOR PARTY POLITICIAN KNUT FREYDENLUND, WHO IS CANDIDATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER OF CHAIRMAN OF STORTING'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. FRYDENLUND WAS PREPARED TO STATE FIRMLY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER, WHOEVER HE MAY BE, WOULD SEE YOU WEDNESDAY.

4. IT IS VIBE'S AND OUR VIEW THAT WORKING LUNCHEON INVOLVING NEW MEMBERS OF CABINET WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE AND LESS PRODUCTIVE THAN WORKING SESSIONS IN THEIR OFFICES. VIBE IS
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ACCORDINGLY WORKING ON FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

12:10 -ARRIVE OSLO. DRIVE TO RESIDENCE.
12:45 - 13:30 --- WORKING SNACK AT RESIDENCE WITH SELECTED EMBOFFS.
13:45 - 15:00 -- MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, PLUS PROBABLY NEW
UNDER SECRETARY (IF NAMED BY THEN), SECRETARY GENERAL
GJELLUM, DIRECTOR GENERAL VIBE, NATO DIVISION
CHIEF HAAKON FREIBHOW.
15:15 - 15:45 COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI AT THE
STORTING (PARLIAMENT).
16:00 - 16:30 MEET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER AND/OR SECRETARY GENERAL
OF DEFENSE ERIC HIMLE.
16:30 DEPART DEFENSE MINISTRY FOR AIRPORT.
17:15 DEPART OSLO FOR COPENHAGEN.

5. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PRINCIPLE TOPICS WHICH WE WOULD EXPECT
THE NORWEGIANS TO RAISE OR SUGGEST YOU TAKE UP WITH THEM:

A. FROM NORWEGIAN STANDPOINT, MAIN SUBJECT THEY WISH TO DISCUSS IS
ATLANTIC RELATIONS. VIBE SAYS HE HAS ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH YOU
NORWAY'S HOPES THAT US-EC DECLARATION CAN BE AMENDED TO TAKE
COGNIZANCE OF ROLE OF THE OTHER ALLIES IN SUCH MATTERS AS
EAST-WEST DETENTE. YOU MAY WISH TO BRIEF NORWEGIANS ON PROGRESS
MADE TO DATE. THEY WILL ALSO DOUBTLESS REPEAT TO YOU THE CONCERNS
THEY ARTICULATED TO ME YESTERDAY (OCT. 12) REGARDING THE FRENCH
DRAFT, WHICH THEY SEE AS BEING TOO COLD WAR IN TONE AND SOMEWHAT
GAULLIST IN ITS IMPLIED ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE IDEA OF A SEPARATE
EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE. THEY WILL ALSO PROBABLY PRESS YOU
TO DEFINE MORE PRECISELY WHAT LANGUAGE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE
EMERGE ON BURDEN-SHARING.

B. NORWEGIANS SENSE THEY SHARE COMMUNITY OF FEELING, PART-
ICULARLY WITH CANADIANS AMONG NON-EC MEMBERS, OF BEING BYPASSED
ON MATTERS OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THEM, AS US DEVELOPS ITS DIALOGUE
WITH THE EC. THEY ARE CORRESPONDINGLY CONCERNED TO MAKE NATO A
MORE MEANINGFUL CENTER FOR DISCUSSION OF THEIR INTERESTS.
ASIDE FROM REASSURING THE NORWEGIANS, I BELIEVE IT IS VERY MUCH
IN OUR INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE TO LOOK TO US
AND OTHER NATO ALLIES AS THEIR MAIN CONSULTATIVE PARTNERS--
IN A PERIOD WHEN WE CAN ANTICIPATE INCREASED PRESSURES FOR
CONSULTATIONS WITHIN SCANDINAVIA AND WITH THE EAST BLOC.

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C. IF, AS I ASSUME, WE ARE PLANNING NEW INITIATIVES WITHIN NATO
ON SPAIN, I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO DISCUSS OUR APPROACH FRANKLY WITH
NORWEGIANS. IF YOU DO NOT FOREWARN THEM, THEY WILL QUESTION BOTH
SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CONCERN TO WIN SUPPORT FOR OUR APPROACH AND
OUR WILLINGNESS TO LEVEL WITH AN ALLY. AS I EXPLAINED IN MY
ASSESSMENT CABLE (OSLO'S 3740), WE SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT
OUR ABILITY TO BRING NORWAY AROUND ON THIS QUESTION. BUT AT
LEAST WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO FEEL WE ARE CONCERNED TO EXPLAIN

OUR VIEWPOINT TO THEM.

E. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL BE ASKED TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN TO YOU REGARDING WHAT NORWEGIANS REGARD AS GROWING NATIONALISM AND BILATERALISM IN U.S. SHIPPING POLICY. THEY ARE PRESENTLY ALARMED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF OIL CARGO PREFERENCE BILL PRESENTLY BEFORE CONGRESS (DISCUSSED IN SEPTTEL).

F. FINALLY, I ASSUME YOU WILL WISH TO SOLICIT NORWEGIAN ESTIMATE OF THE IMPACT OF THE ELECTIONS, AND THE INCREASED LEFTIST VOICE IN THE STORTING, ON NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND US NORWEGIAN RELATIONS.

6. DEFENSE SECRETARY GENERAL HIMLE INFORMED VIBE THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER, SINCE HE WILL BE HOSTING MEETING OF NORDIC DEFENSE MINISTERS THAT OPENS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT ROROS IN CENTRAL NORWAY. VIBE SAID THAT, EVEN IF HE CANNOT ARRANGE FOR MEETING

IN EARLY AFTERNOON (I.E. BEFORE MEETING IN FOREIGN MINISTRY) WITH DEFENSE MINISTER, HIMLE HAS EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN DELAYING HIS TRIP TO ROROS TO TALK WITH YOU. HIMLE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR INTERESTS IN SOME WAYS THAN DEFENSE MINISTER. HE WAS BRATTELI'S UNDER SECRETARY IN HIS LAST CABINET AND IS PERSON MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE IN NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT OUR VARIOUS COOPERATIVE PROJECTS.

7. IF SCHEDULE WORKS OUT AS PLANNED ABOVE, IT WILL MEAN HEAVY LOAD FOR YOU ON TOP OF TIRING FLIGHT. BUT FROM NORWEGIAN STANDPOINT, IT WILL BE VERY WELCOME INDICATION OF U.S. INTEREST IN NORWAY AND CONCERN TO INVOLVE THE NATO COUNTRIES OUTSIDE OF COMMON MARKET, IN THE PRESENT ON-GOING DIALOGUE.

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